



## October Edition 2023



### October

#### Select Board Meetings

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Regular Meeting 7PM

#### Important Dates:

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Town Offices Closed:

October 9, 2023

Belmont Farmers Market:

Thursdays – 2:00-6:30PM

Contact the Town  
 Administrator's Office

Address:

455 Concord Ave.  
 Belmont, MA 02478

Email:

[townadministrator@  
 belmont-ma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@belmont-ma.gov)

Phone: 617-993-2610

The air is getting brisk, the leaves on the trees are starting to get heavy as they begin to change color, and our sweet tooth senses seem to be heightened. It must be October! We wish everyone a very happy Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 9<sup>th</sup> and remind everyone that Town Offices will be closed in honor of the holiday.

It was another productive and busy month for the Town of Belmont in September, and as we look forward to the month of October, it is sure to be as chock full of activity and productivity as tick-or-treater's candy bags on Halloween. Town staff and myself are looking forward to our annual Town Hall Trick-or-Treat Event for Belmont children and families on Monday, October 30, 2023 from 4PM- 6PM, we hope to see you there. Please have a fun and safe Halloween!

So, grab your favorite Fall snack and take a moment to check out all the happenings in the October Town Administrator's Belmont Bulletin.

## Select Board News and Initiatives:

### Special Town Meeting this Fall:

Mark your Calendars, a Special Town Meeting will be held in November 2023. The meeting will be held in-person at the Belmont Middle and High School Auditorium (221 Concord Ave) with a remote option via Zoom also available. For Town Meeting information please visit the [Town Clerk's webpage](#). The Town Meeting dates are listed below:

- **Monday, November 6, 2023**
- **Wednesday, November 8, 2023**
- **Monday, November 13, 2023**

### FY2025 Budget Summit I – October 12, 2023

The Select Board has announced their intention request an override in the April 2024 Belmont General Election. The first budget summit for FY2025 will take place on **October 12th**. The main policy making boards and committees will attend – Select Board, School Committee, Warrant Committee and Capital Committee, and will begin deliberating on the size, allocation and long-term plan for the override request. The summit will be broadcast on [Belmont Media](#) and presentation materials are available on the [Town Budget Information](#) page of the Website.

### Keep Up with the Select Board



Use the links below to watch the most recent Select Board Meetings on Belmont Media's Website.

- [September 7, 2023](#)
- [September 14, 2023](#)
- [September 18, 2023](#)
- [September 25, 2023](#)
- [September 28, 2023](#)

Find archived Select Board Minutes [here](#).

To view a digital version of this month's Bulletin, please scan the QR Code.

## Select Board News and Initiatives Continued:

### Belmont Middle and High School Ribbon Open House – Saturday, October 21 from 10:30 am until 2 pm:

The Select Board is excited to announce on behalf of the School Committee and Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee an Open House event at the New Belmont Middle and High School, providing members of the Belmont Community to visit and explore the state-of-the-art facility.

### Annual Appointments for Town Committees, Commissions, and Boards:

Members of the Belmont community interested in volunteering to serve on one or more of our Town’s Committees are welcome to apply through our [online application portal](#). Additionally, for those publicly spirited community members **seeking to renew** committee membership, please resubmit your application through the [online portal](#).

### The Belmont Cultural Council Grant Application Process, part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Local Cultural Council Program, deadline October 17, 2023

The [Belmont Cultural Council 2024 grant application](#) process will be open from September 1, 2023 through October 17, 2023. [The Belmont Cultural Council](#) focuses largely on supporting Belmont programs that have enriched the Belmont Community with music, fine arts, interpretive science, and humanitarian initiatives, as well as applicants sponsored by a Belmont organization. Applications and information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available [online](#).

### Emergency Alerts System:

A new Emergency Alerts System went into effect Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Belmont Police Department has contracted with a new provider for our community notification system. To learn more about the new system, please visit the [Belmont Police website](#) or [click here](#) to view a brochure.

### Important Reminder that Quarter 2 Tax bills are due November 1, 2023:

It’s that time of year for quarterly tax bills! Please be advised that residents must submit their bills by the deadline to avoid late penalties. Tax bills can be paid online by visiting the [Online Tax Payments](#) page on Town website.



### Belmont Serves Food Drive Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>:

The food drive starts at 9:30AM and it taking place on the Town Green, 404 Concord Ave, Belmont. Belmont Serves is organized and sponsored by the Belmont Religious Council and brings together members of faith communities across town to serve together in the community.



The Belmont Recreation Department has released their Fall Programs Brochure! Please [Click here](#) or visit the Rec. Department website to learn more.



What makes Belmont healthy & strong?  
**Your voice.**

When you take the MA Community Health Equity Survey, you’re sharing valuable experience that can help build a healthier community. The survey is available in 11 languages, easy to take, and anonymous.

Take the survey now at [Mass.gov/Healthsurvey](https://Mass.gov/Healthsurvey)



Scan to take survey

This survey is part of the Community Health Equity Initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.




October 2023

## Employee Spotlight

### Judi Carmody

#### Department of Public Works Business Manager

Each month, Town Administrator Patrice Garvin shines a light on a single employee whose hard-work and dedication exemplifies what it means to be an employee for the Town of Belmont. In the *Employee Spotlight series*, we are able to shine a light on incredible employee achievements and provide an opportunity to introduce and recognize Belmont Town employees throughout the Belmont community.

In this month's Bulletin, Town Administrator Garvin would like to recognize Belmont's Department of Public Works Business Manager **Judi Carmody** who has worked for Belmont since 1999 and is now in her 24<sup>th</sup> year. Judi describes her job as "running the day-to-day operations of an office, while being a problem solver whose goal is to always, at the end of the day, help people."

Judi came to Belmont after spending 20 years in the restaurant industry, an experience she credits as the foundation of one of the most essential skills at her current role, "customer service." After her brother, who worked for the Belmont Facilities Department, mentioned Belmont as a nice place to work, Judi applied and landed in the Town's Accounting Department where she was responsible for processing the Town's bills. Judi's good work did not go unnoticed in the Accounting Department and it soon became apparent that she would be a fitting candidate for an open Administrative Assistant position in the Highway Department.

When it was decided that the Town's Highway, Parks, Cemetery, Water/Sewer, Recreation, and Trash/Recycling departments would transition to divisions within a new Department of Public Works, Judi was in on the ground floor. Judi worked closely, with her then Director, Peter Castanino who she called a "great person to help lead the effort and a great person generally who you could always go to for advice." Judi also recalled the steady hand and leadership of Michael Santoro who contributed greatly to the reorganization. Judi cites her role in the formation of the DPW as her greatest accomplishment, "it's not every day or every year that a Town reorganizes the structure of how it's departments operate and to get to be a part of that for the DPW was special. There was a lot of work, a lot of communication, and a little bit of anxiety that came with a big change like that, but it was exciting and we got it done."

Over the years, Judi also recalls her work with FEMA and MEMA which are the Federal and State emergency response organizations.



Whether it be flooding or a snowstorm that dropped 3-feet of snow, abnormal events like these can qualify for FEMA or MEMA reimbursements. Judi has become the senior staff person in the DPW that manages the processing of these major reimbursement requests. The ins-and-outs of the process are complex and take persistence to see through to the end. At times, fulfilling all the requirements can take up to a year to process. Judi's work over the years has led to her processing many of these requests successfully on behalf of the Town of Belmont.

A big part of Judi's day is interacting with Belmont residents who may come to the DPW with an issue or question. The biggest challenge Judi says she faces is having to tell a resident "No." Judi explains, "it's not easy sometimes, because your goal is to help everyone that comes into or calls the office, but sometimes that help isn't always saying yes. It might be that we take a step back and take the time to walk people through the rules and regulations that sometimes limit what we can do in a certain situation."

Judi finds motivation each day in a good cup of coffee, but more than that it is her ability to organize and prioritize. Each day she starts with ideas of what she needs to accomplish, but remains flexible to be able to deal with whatever might come her way. As a problem solver Judi says she takes a situation and "break(s) it down into pieces to understand it first" before stitching it back together anew as a solution. A fitting outlook, as Judi is also a talented seamstress. Judi also enjoys spending time bowling, in her garden, cooking, and "purging" (aka cleaning).

Looking toward the future, Judi is planning on retirement after what has been an impactful career in public service for the Town of Belmont. She's hoping that retirement can give her a chance to "enjoy a little more of life." Judi is as confident as ever in the DPW moving forward to provide the best services possible and will continue her mantra of "we're here to help and we want to help."

## Community Updates:

### Belmont Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to approximately 295 incidents during the month of September. These included fires, emergency medical responses, a hazardous materials incident, and many other types of emergencies.

In addition, firefighters were on hand at the Butler and Winn Brook Elementary Schools to help welcome students to school during their first week of classes. High fives, fist bumps, and words of encouragement were the order of the day as students made their way into the school building.

The Belmont Fire Department continued its support of Town Day by providing the EMS Bike Unit during the event and hosting an opportunity for youngsters and adults to view some of our equipment and learn about fire safety at Station 2 in Belmont Center. The event was very well attended and all had a great time!

At the end of August, FF Michael Nolan completed his probationary period and traded his orange probationary helmet shield for the black shield of a Belmont Firefighter during a gathering of his entire shift in early September.

The robust training at BFD continued in September as members at headquarters took their own initiative to practice using equipment to rescue firefighters and civilians from incidents where they may be unable to move on their own.

Please join us at our open house at Fire Headquarters (299 Trapelo Rd.) on Saturday, October 28th from 4:00-6:00pm. This event will feature tours of our fire trucks, the Department of Fire Services Fire Safety House, activities for kids, and pizza and soda for all!



Don't forget to check out the latest episode of **"HOT TOPICS"** with Chief Destefano and Captain David DeMarco available on the Belmont Media Website or by [clicking here](#).



## **Belmont Public Library**

As the leaves begin to turn color, the page leaves of the story of the Belmont Public Library continue to turn as well. We are approaching the end of the storied tenure of the library's current building as this season marks the last in the library's current home. The month of November will focus on packing up the library, and setting up temporary service locations.

Wednesday November 22nd will be our final day of service in this building with plans to reopen in our temporary locations in mid-December. We will however have some services available during this transition time including:

- 1) Online Reference Chat
- 2) Museum Pass Pickup
- 3) Access to daily newspapers and
- 4) Online Digital Library Services including database access, E-material access, and online library account creation.

In addition, we will be launching a Library Update Hotline and Email Service. This will be a clearinghouse for information where citizens can ask questions and give us their feedback and input on the temporary services.

Our temporary space plans continue to take final shape. Thank you to all of our partners in town, the COA board, the School Department and the Benton Board for their incredible collaboration.

**The Beech Street Center** will be our main location for public services. We will offer circulation of materials, reference services, computers, and programming for all ages. We will have some limited children's materials here as well. Library service hours at the Beech Street will be:

9am – 7:30pm, Mondays – Thursdays  
9am – 5pm, Fridays  
9am – 3pm, Saturdays

**The Benton Library** will be our main location for Children's Services. We will offer materials circulation and reference, and some small-scale programming. We will have some limited adult materials here and you will be able to request this location for material pick up. Library services at the Benton will be:

9am – 12pm & 2pm -5pm, Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays  
10am – 1pm & 3pm – 7:30pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays  
9am – 3pm, Saturdays

The Chenery will be the primary office location for staff. Please stay tuned for more updates on our [library website](#), and in our November newsletter.



**The Beech Street Center  
266 Beech Street  
Belmont, MA 02478**



**The Benton Library  
75 Oakley Road  
Belmont, MA 02478**

## Council on Aging

It's bustling on beech street this October at the Council on Aging's Beech Street Center. This month is packed with enlightening engaging and entertaining events! You can visit the [Beech Street Center's website](#) for more information and a complete list of events. Check out some of the

### THE RIBOTONES & MIT ALZHEIMER'S INNOVATION HUB

*Tue, October 17 at 5:30 p.m. COST: Free*

The MIT Ribotones is a group of MIT students and alumni who love playing music. The Ribotones regularly perform community concerts at nursing homes and hospitals in the Boston area. Join us in the evening for a concert with the MIT Ribotones, organized in collaboration with the MIT Alzheimer's Innovation Hub. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

### 1920'S MURDER MYSTERY PARTY

*Tue, Oct 24 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. COST: Free*

Travel back in time and help us solve a good, ole fashioned mob murder mystery from the 1920's! Bring your best sleuthing skills and appetite as we nosh and try to figure out who is the murderer. Featuring local celebrities to really bring the game to life! Registration required as space is limited (to 25); please call 617-993-2970 to register.

### "RAGTIME" JACK RADCLIFFE

*Fri, October 27 at 1:15 p.m. COST: Free*

He's been a newspaper editor, an ethnomusicologist, an author, a tall ship captain, an outdoor leader and an award-winning music producer. Jack brings his piano, guitar, fiddle, voice, and wit with him wherever he goes. Jack's performances always include a lot of uplifting wit, historical anecdotes and connections with local lore, wherever he performs. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

### BEWITCHED: STYLES OF THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS

*Tue, October 31 at 1:15 p.m. COST: Free*

Do you love learning about the Salem Witch Trials of the 1690s? Join Ren Antonowicz of Spirits of Fashion for an afternoon of discovering what the folks of Salem, MA were wearing during this time and how their styles differed from those worn by the people of Europe and other areas. We will explore the various aspects of dress for men and women of that time. Please spend your afternoon with us and get into the Halloween spirit! Please call 617-993-2970 to register. Halloween candy and snacks for this event provided by LCB Senior Living. Come meet Jolie Whitten from their team!

Belmont  
COUNCIL ON AGING



#### HOOSIERS

*Tue, Oct 3 at 3:00 p.m.*

A coach with a checkered past and a local drunk train a small-town high school basketball team to become a top contender for the state championship in 1950s Indiana. Starring Gene Hackman, Barbara Hershey, & Dennis Hopper.

#### JULIE & JULIA

*Tue, Oct 10 at 3:00 p.m.*

Julia Child's story of her start in the cooking profession is intertwined with blogger Julie Powell's 2002 challenge to cook all the recipes in Child's first book. Starring Meryl Streep & Amy Adams.

#### COOL HAND LUKE

*Tue, Oct 17 at 3:00 p.m.*

A laid-back Southern man is sentenced to two years in a rural prison, but refuses to conform. Starring Paul Newman.

#### THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

*Tue, Oct 24 at 3:00 p.m.*

A smart but sensible new graduate gets a job as an assistant to Miranda Priestly, the demanding editor-in-chief of a high fashion magazine. Starring Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Adrian Grenier, Emily Blunt, & Stanley Tucci.

#### HOCUS POCUS

*Tue, Oct 31 at 3:00 p.m.*

A teenage boy named Max and his little sister move to Salem, where he struggles to fit in before awakening a trio of diabolical witches that were executed in the 17th century. Starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Better Midler, and Kathy Najimy.

## Belmont Recreation Department

Things are always fun and exciting at Belmont's Recreation Department! Check out a few event highlights that are coming up in the month of October!

**House Decorating Contest:** Decorate your house for Halloween and enter for a chance to win prizes. Details are Belmontrec.com

**Pumpkinfest:** Join us at the Belmont Women's club for a night of music, candy, games, a movie, and pumpkin carving! Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Details at Belmontrec.com

**Trick or Treat at Town Hall:** On Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-5:30pm, come by the town hall complex and trick or treat with all your favorite town departments. There will be music, games, food, candy, prizes and more!

You can always check out all the happenings at the Recreation Department by visiting their website at [belmontma.myrec.com](http://belmontma.myrec.com).



## Belmont Health Department

### Take the Community Health Equity Survey!

To improve the health of everyone in Massachusetts, we need to center the voices of people and communities who have been long denied an equal chance at health. The Community Health Equity Survey is an opportunity for residents to share their experiences and priorities to help shape the future of our health. The survey will be open from July 31, 2023 through early Fall 2023. Anyone aged 14 and older can take the survey. Taking the survey is voluntary and easy! Just click on this link to get started: <http://www.mass.gov/healthsurvey>.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinics:

The Belmont Health Department is partnering with Osco Pharmacy to offer Flu and COVID vaccine clinics in October and November, with clinics planned for the following dates:

- **Wed 10/4/23: 10am to 2pm**
- **Wed 10/11/23: 10am to 2pm**
- **Wed 10/18/23: 10am to 2pm**
- **Wed 11/1/23: 10am to 2pm**
- **Wed 11/8/23: 10am to 2pm**

More information will be available once details are finalized. Please visit the [Belmont Health Department Facebook page](#) for the most up to date vaccine clinic information this fall.